

Low-Carbon Energy Project Siting Improvement Study

Public Information Meeting
May 26, 2022



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

Overview of Siting Study and Opportunity for Input

Objectives:

- Provide information about the low-carbon energy project siting improvement study
- Hear from the public on how to improve siting, environmental review and permitting for low-carbon energy projects
- Hear public concerns related to clean energy projects



Agenda

- Welcome
- Overview of the low-carbon energy project siting improvement study
- Questions and answers
- Breakout room discussions
- Share and report out
- Opportunities for further participation
- Wrap up





Why a study is being done

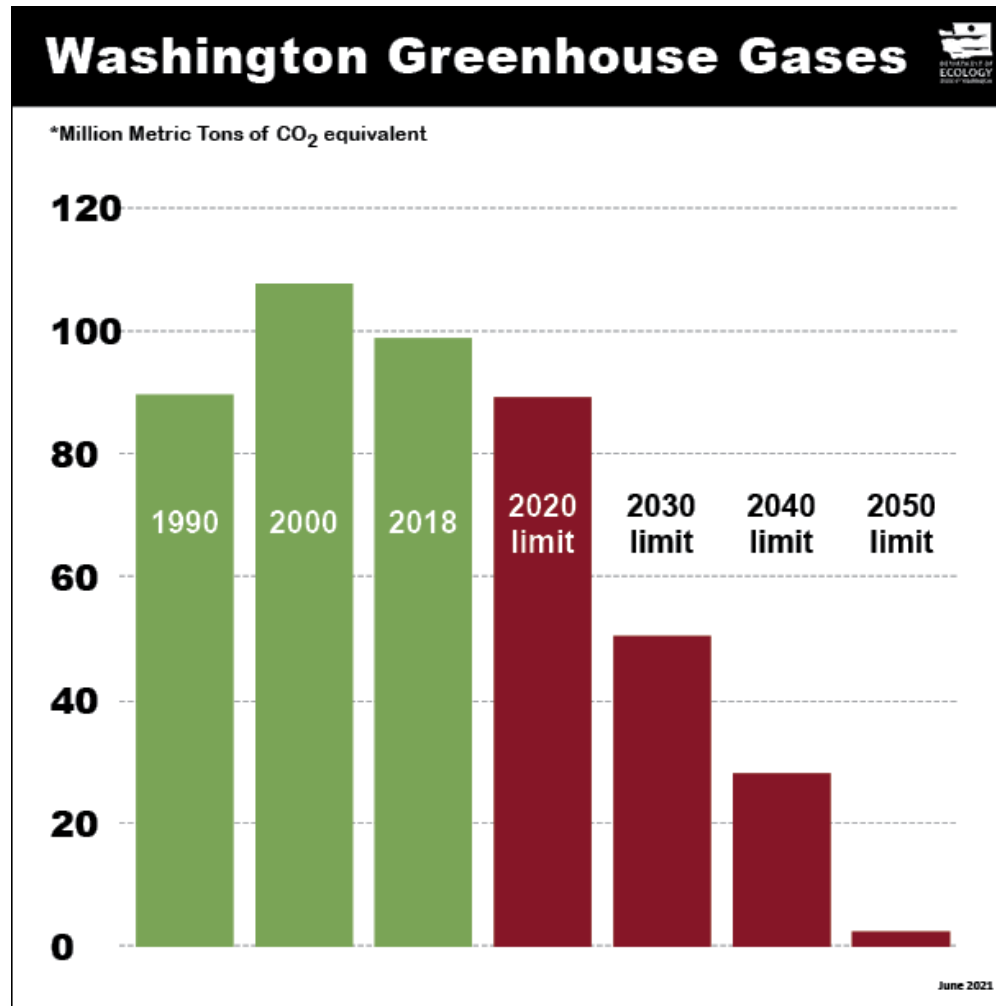
Legislative Directive

The Legislature directed Ecology and Commerce to develop recommendations for improvements to the siting and permitting of industrial projects that:

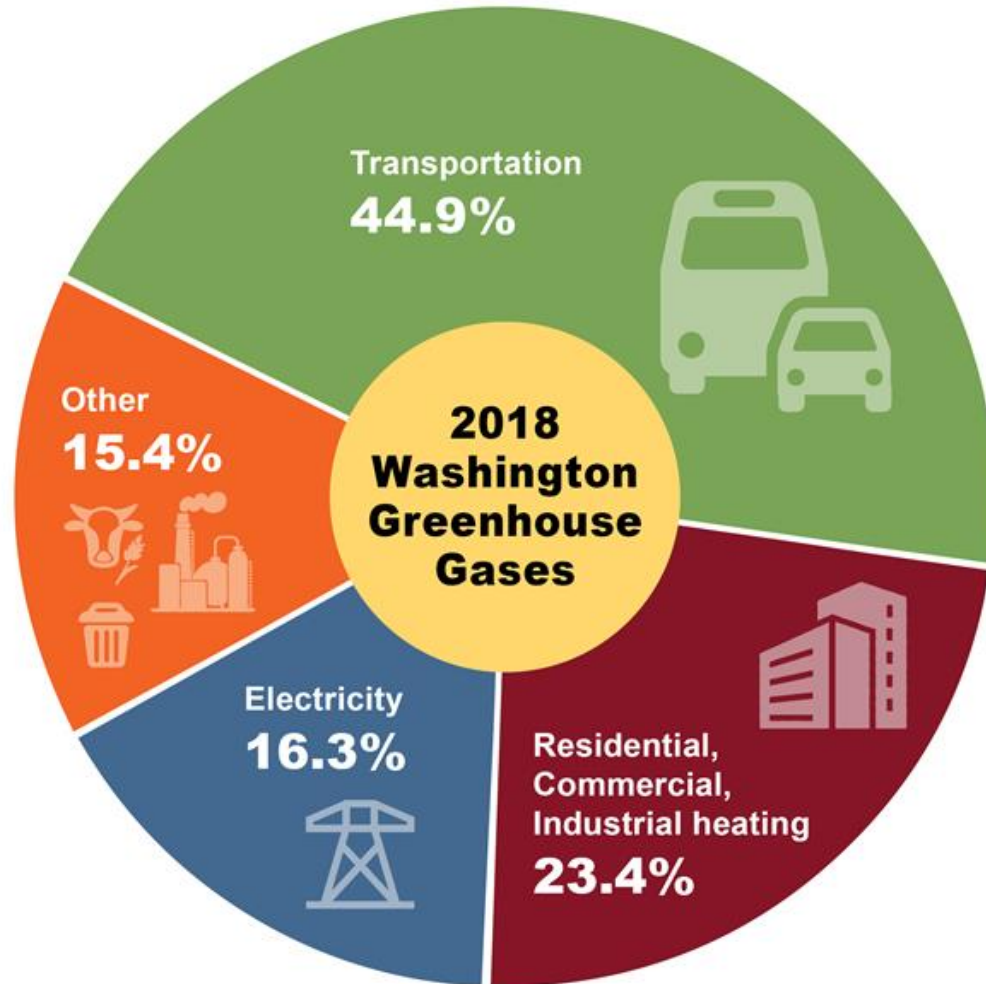
- Contribute to meeting the state's greenhouse gas limits
- Maintain standards for protection of the environment
- Consider overburdened communities and vulnerable populations
- Preserve Tribal consultation and treaty rights



Washington State – Greenhouse Gas Limits



Sources of Washington greenhouse gases



State Clean Energy Efforts

The Siting Study relates to, but is separate from these other state efforts:

- [Climate Commitment Act](#)
- [Healthy Environment for All \(HEAL\) Act](#)
- [State Energy Strategy](#)
- [Clean Energy Transformation Act](#)
 - [Transmission Corridors Working Group](#)
- [Clean Fuel Standard](#)



Why the study is important

The study will help develop recommendations to the Legislature for siting, environmental review, and permitting of **industrial clean energy projects**

The recommendations will:

- Support good in-state jobs
- Contribute to the low-carbon economic development in Washington
- Reduce adverse impacts to the environment and local communities
- Preserve Tribal consultation and treaty rights





Low-Carbon Energy Project Siting Improvement Study

Siting Study Approach

Partnership approach led by Department of Ecology and the Department of Commerce

Includes:

- Public input
- Input from stakeholders
- Consultation and engagement with Tribes
- Coordination with state agencies



Focus of Siting Study

- Identify systemic issues:
 - Siting of projects
 - Environmental review and permitting processes
 - Tribal treaty rights and cultural resource processes
 - Consideration of overburdened communities and vulnerable populations

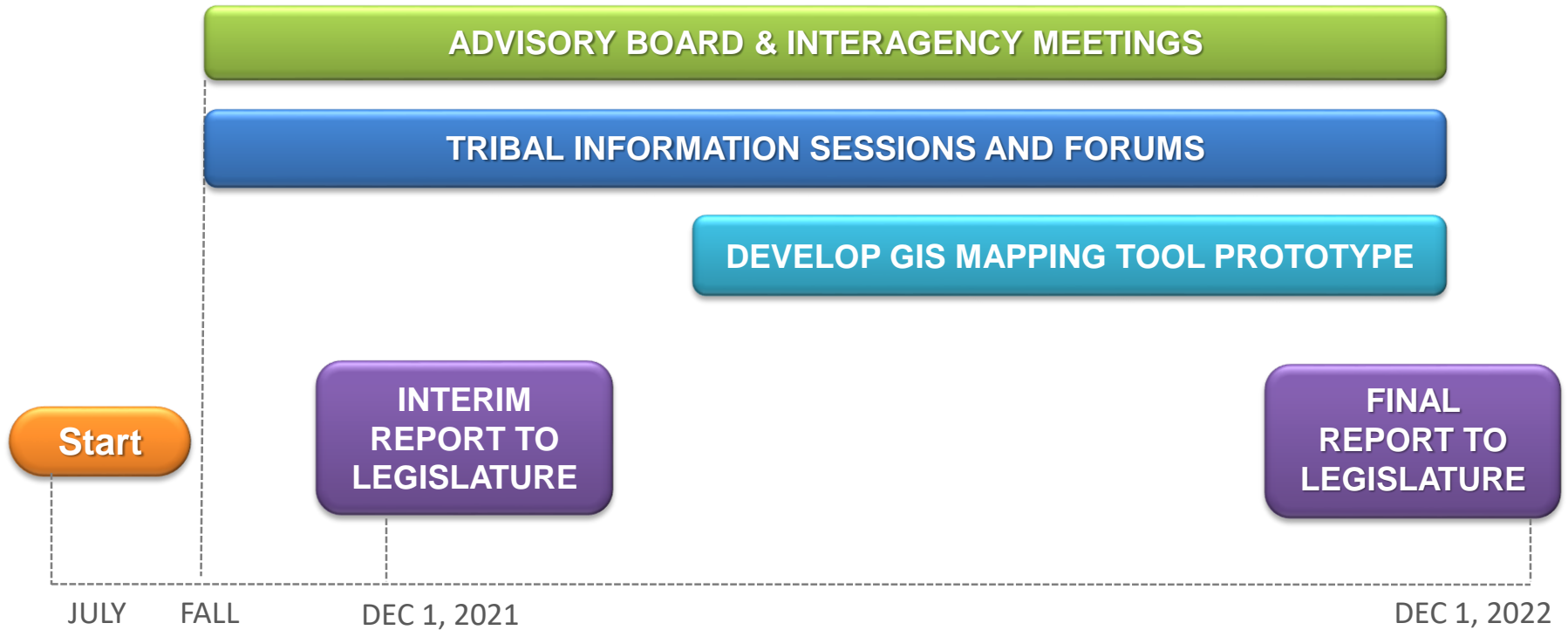


Focus – Clean Energy Projects

- Industrial clean energy facilities and projects, including (but not limited to):
 - Biorefineries and biofuel refineries
 - Electric vehicle battery manufacturers
 - Solar panel manufacturers and solar farms
 - Wind farms
 - Hydro and battery storage facilities
 - Green hydrogen facilities
 - Offshore energy facilities (wind, tidal)



Timeline



Advisory Board

- Makah Tribe
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- Association of Washington Business
- Audubon Washington
- City of Spokane
- Climate Solutions
- Front and Centered
- Invenergy
- Klickitat County
- Latino Community Fund
- NextEra Energy
- Port of Benton
- Port of Grays Harbor
- Puget Sound Energy
- Renewable Energy Group
- Sierra Club
- Washington Environmental Council
- WA State Association of Counties
- WA State Building and Construction Trades Council
- WA State Labor Council
- Whatcom County



Tribal Consultation and Engagement

- Tribal information sessions
- Tribal forums
- Government-to-government consultation



Interagency Policy Team

- Ecology (co-lead)
- Commerce (co-lead)
- Governor's Office for Regulatory Innovation and Assistance
- Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
- Office of the Governor
- State of Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
- WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
- WA State Department of Agriculture
- WA State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
- WA State Department of Natural Resources
- WA State Department of Transportation
- WA Utilities and Transportation Commission





Low-Carbon Energy Siting Study Mapping Tool Prototype

Mapping Tool Prototype

Develop a prototype of a mapping tool

- Provide information for clean energy projects
 - Who to contact
 - Issues to consider
- Use available data
- Potential to add information in the future



Other Energy Mapping Work

- [Compatible Energy Siting Assessment for wind and solar](#) (Department of Commerce)
- DNR Land Solar Energy Mapping (Department of Natural Resources)
- Least-conflict solar siting work for the Columbia Basin (Washington State University)





Legislative reports

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

- Interim Report – submitted
- Final Report (due Dec 1, 2022)
 - Includes recommendations
 - Identifies additional studies





Topics and what we've heard

Topics and What We've Heard

- Community engagement
- Environmental justice and equity considerations
- Improving Tribal consultation and engagement
- Local government roles



Topics and What We've Heard

- Environmental impacts and mitigation
- Advanced planning
- Integrated approach



Topics and What We've Heard

- Pre-application assistance and information
- Financial benefits and impacts
- Staff and funding support



Topics and What We've Heard

- Mapping tools
- State agency guidance
- Coordination with other energy work in Washington
- Additional studies needed





Making your voice heard

More opportunities to participate

- Next public meetings:
 - June 16 2:00-4:00
 - August, TBD
- [Submit a comment](#) at any time
- [Advisory Board meetings](#): monthly meetings with time for public comment
- [Website](#): view meeting materials and recordings



For more information:

- Low-Carbon Energy Project Siting Improvement Study [website](#)
- Sign up for [email list](#)





Thank you for participating!